BLACK WIND

by jay-guun

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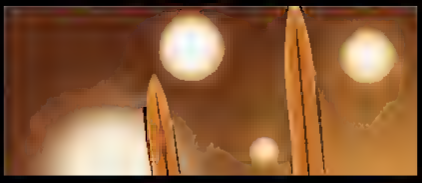
Dear Woo-Hyun,

Hello! How are you? It's already been more than a year since you left Britain.

Sometimes I think it would have been nice if you could have stayed here and continued to study with me.



These days, I've been so busy excavating that I have little time to think. Maybe that's why I've started to remember you more often after work.

Do you remember the stories I told you?

The witch stories, I mean.

Yeah, everyone laughed at my stories, but you were always right next to me, listening with a serious look on your face.

… Want to know something amazing? :)

I'm excavating the remnants of a witch.

As you know, history recalls the witch hunts as a phase of collective madness during the middle ages.

None of the victims were real witches.

That's why we remember the witch hunt as genocide and a tragedy of the middle ages.

Motivated by religious convictions and a struggle for political power, witch hunts were used as an excuse to rob the weak.

Those leading the hunts claimed that witches were in communion with the devil, that they spread disease, destruction and bloodshed.

But don't you sometimes wonder?

Why were people so afraid of witches?

How did they gain such a terrible reputation?

Were there really no witches from the start?

I don't think so many victims could result from pure fantasy.

There must have been a real witch hunt hidden behind the false one that ruined innocent people.

To dismiss this event as a mad era, a senseless age of slaughtering the defenseless...

...No. The sheer cruelty of the witch hunt indelibly draws the impression that it must have heen fueled by a real, justified fear.

Perhaps even you might laugh at this story.

It's a difficult subject. If we are to argue whether or not there were real witches involved, we must first presuppose that superhuman beings could have existed, and that would change all of human history.

Or perhaps superhuman influence has already interfered to create history as we know it.

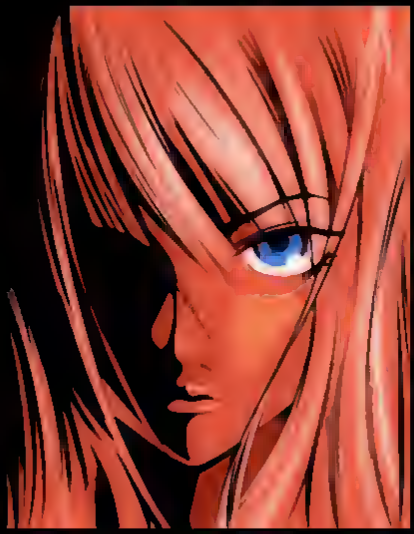
What if, in a long-lost age,
there were once beings different from us?

What if there was a time when we fought to secure supremacy of the land... a time of swords and magic?

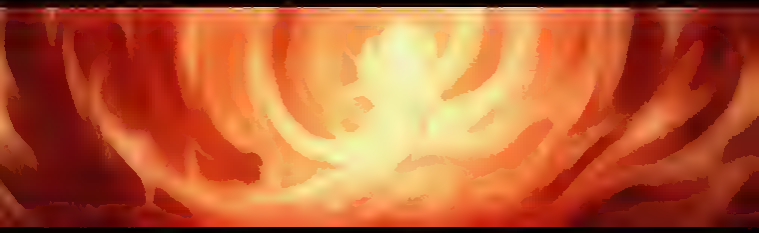
Maybe we have the wrong idea about witches.

It's possible that these witches were never humans to begin with, but were different beings from the start.

Or perhaps we shared a common ancestor but diverged very early in prehistory.

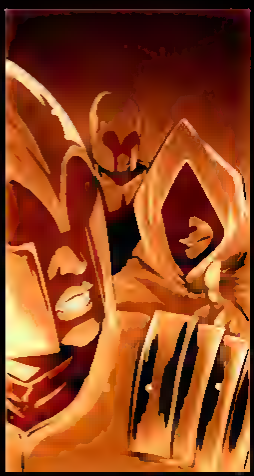


If they had existed, they would have been not only the victim of witch hunting but also the casualty of a greater tragedy completely erased from history.



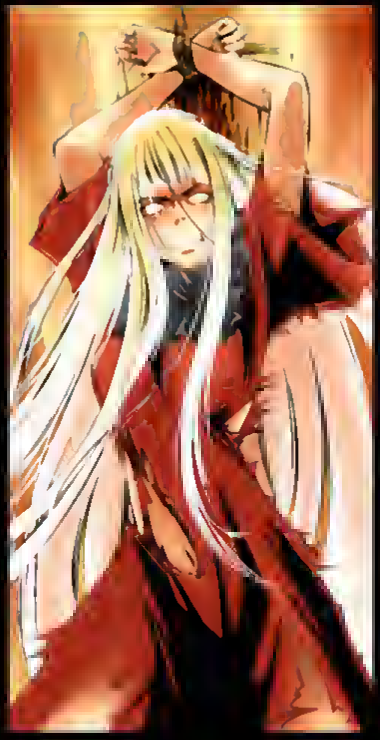
I believe the idea that we have always been the only sentient beings in this world is a terrible conceit. Unless we discard this sort of thought, we can never acknowledge the possibility of witches.

Perhaps we invented our own history after wiping out a unique hominid species.



I hypothesize that false witch hunting may have been a vestigial tradition resulting from that process. Even in modern history, we can continue to see examples of that practice in racism.

But... I'm sure a question has occurred to you by this point.



Like I said earlier, if the witches were as strong and terrifying as we think they were, shouldn't they have survived instead of us?

But we are the survivors.

How did they all disappear?

This is a major problem I'll have to resolve.

It's just that... My intuition tells me that someone was trying to erase the very existence of witches, destroy all evidence of them and leave them with a terrible reputation.

Perhaps witches were humans different from us that fought this force to the last moment.

If the writers of history and the rulers of this world had not been humans...

Wouldn't that make the humans the real victims of the so-called "witch hunts"?

And if the descendants of the forgotten witches uncover their history, wouldn't they seek to eradicate the human race?

Just as they were.

Woo-Hyun, I intend to prove the truth behind this fantastic story. I already have the first thread of evidence: artifacts that could have only belonged to a witch. It will verify everything I've told you so far.

Perhaps this time, even you might not believe it unless you see it for yourself.

That's why I want you to come here.
I want to show you first.

Once they see this, everyone will believe it.
No, everyone will know.

There is a real witch
in Roselum!

Next Saturday, I'll be waiting near the entrance of the Roselum city limits.

Reserve your airplane ticket right now, okay?!

I'll be waiting for you.

Your Dear Friend,
Dana

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